

Findings and status of Scientific Study

64 individual reptiles (n=43) and amphibians (n=21) were captured or observed in 2010 in the Turkey Creek, Canyonlands, and Jack Gore and Neches Bottom units of the Big Thicket National Preserve.

This year's effort was mainly focused on freshwater turtles from June 5th to the 15th in collaboration with Eastfield Colleges NSF program. We captured 8 out of the 12 species of turtle expected to occur in the BTNP in 10 days, including 2 individuals of the state listed threatened species, the Alligator Snapping Turtle. Thirty-seven turtles were captured in total, most in hoop nets but a few by hand as they were nesting. All were PIT tagged to allow future identification.

In June 2010, the permit was amended to cover herp inventory activities preserve-wide. During a preliminary visit to the Canyonlands unit, multiple individuals of the state-rare plethodontid salamander, the Southern Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus auriculatus*), were discovered. This represents the first time in several decades this salamander has been found in Texas and further adds to the ecological value of the preserve.

The following lists the species detected in 2010 along with the number of individuals.

<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	2
<i>Bufo nebulifer</i>	1
<i>Bufo</i> spp.	1
<i>Desmognathus auriculatus</i>	3
<i>Eurycea quadradigittata</i>	6
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	3
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>	3
<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	1
<i>Siren intermedia nettingi</i>	2
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	1
<i>Graptemys ouachitaensis sabinensis</i>	1
<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica kohnii</i>	2
<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	2
<i>Micrurus fulvius tener</i>	2
<i>Nerodia erythrogastor flavigastor</i>	1
<i>Nerodia rhombifera rhombifera</i>	2
<i>Sternotherus carinatus</i>	2
<i>Thamnophis proximus orarius</i>	1
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	26
<i>Trionyx mutica</i>	1
<i>Trionyx spinifera</i>	1

All data collected thus far has been submitted to the ATBI database.